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Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Sylvester Ekundayo **Rowe** (Sierra Leone)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/40 of 20 November 2000.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2001, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64 to 84, which was held at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 8 to 12 and from 15 to 17 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.3-11). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 12th to 17th meetings, from 22 to 24 and on 26, 29 and 30 October (see A/C.1/56/PV.12-17). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 24th meetings, on 30 and 31 October and on 2, 5 and 6 November (see A/C.1/56/PV.18-24).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.1/56/L.11

5. At the 17th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft decision entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/56/L.11).

6. At the 20th meeting, on 31 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement, on behalf of the Secretary-General, concerning the financial implications of draft decision A/C.1/56/L.11.

7. At its 20th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.1/56/L.11 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994,[1] and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Fifth Review Conference, which is to be held at Geneva from 19 November to 7 December 2001;

(b) Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

[1] BWC/SPCONF/1.